The Working Practice of Indian Federalism: A Comparative Analysis of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Governments

Synopsis
Submitted in the partial fulfillment for the requirement of
Doctor of Philosophy
In
Political Science

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Dayalbagh Agra
2022

Introduction

"Federalism is a constitutional mechanism for dividing powers between different levels of governments so that federated units can enjoy substantial, constitutionally guaranteed autonomy over certain policy areas while sharing power in accordance with agreed rules over other areas" (Bulmer:2017, p.3). Federalism is a form of government in which powers are distributed constitutionally between two level of government i.e., National level and regional level. Federalism is a power sharing method through which Centre and State distribute the whole power of a nation among them and remains autonomous in their respective fields. Bi-cameral legislature, written constitution and independent judiciary are some foremost features of federalism.

India is a federal state. In India, there has been the distribution of power between Centre government and state government. Centre and state both are independent and autonomous in their respective areas. Indian federalism is unique in nature, because Indian federalism is not a result of agreement between states rather states derives their power from Centre. In Indian federalism, states do not have power to be separated from Centre. It means it is 'indestructible' in nature. India is a 'Union of state's. Centre is the prime authority in Indian federalism. The constitution makers provided the tendencies of strong Centre to avoid future conflicts regarding powers between the Centre and the states (Chakrabarty: 2017). Features of Indian federalism are also unique in their own way. Dual citizenship is one of the features of federalism rather India has the provision of single citizenship. Written constitution, independent judiciary and bicameral legislature are the features of Indian federalism.

The years of 2004-2014 were headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister of India under UPA (United Progressive Alliances). Dr. Singh worked for the development of India internally as well as externally. Dr. Singh put forward the path of collective deliberations in which he believed in collective works with states; meetings and discussion were held with chief ministers on those critical issues which required center's action. The meeting between Centre- states held through various forums such as National development council, National integration council and through several conferences. The strengthening of Interstate council was also a key issue to UPA government.

UPA Government issued a National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP)to make application of the promises done at the time of elections. For the fulfillment of its minimum programme, the

government established a commission to re-examine the Centre-states relations. It was set up on 27th April 2007 under the chairmanship of Justice Madan Mohan Puncchi commonly known as 'Punchhi commission'(Rani: 2014). The commission gave its suggestions to empower and strengthen Inter-state councils and some other suggestions also made. However, it also faced criticism by states that states were not being consulted before framing of commission. States also posed allegations that it didn't work for resolving the Centre-state issues, rather identifying new issues in fronts of Centre- state relations.

In 2014, general elections of LokSabha held, in which Bhartiya Janata Party emerged as the largest party and the NDA (National Democratic Alliances) led by the BJP formed government which is held as the majoritarian government. Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi became the Prime Minister of India. During the 2014 general elections of LokSabha, the BJP's manifesto had given prominent place to Centre state relations which are termed as 'cooperative federalism' (Sharma, Swenden: 2018). Cooperative federalism denotes the effective and improved working of Centre along with states. States would be the part in the decision- making process. In the direction of strengthening the idea of cooperative federalism, in 2014, planning commission, body made by India's first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru was replaced with NITI (National Institute for Transforming India) Aayog.

The NITI Aayog, an institution was aimed at the implementation of the idea of cooperative and competitive federalism (niti.gov.in). In this context, Prime Minister Modi believed that all chief ministers would be a part of it and decisions would be taken up with their consent. All the decisions would be done through cooperation of states. The NDA Government believed that during its tenure, policies would not be centralized rather they will be cooperative and coordinated. Mr. Modi advocated that in his government the idea of competitive federalism will be followed. In fact, the "Competitive Federalism is generally understood to mean that states are given more autonomy to pursue their political, fiscal and policy goals without interference of the Centre"(Sharma, Swenden: 2018, p. 56). Through the idea of competitive federalism, state will have autonomy in managing their policies and also would hold accountability for their own action in this regard. The idea of competitive federalism denotes the policy of decentralization. In the reference of decentralization, states would have autonomy, accountability, responsibility of their policies and decisions.

Conceptual Framework

Present world is a world of globalization in which channelization has been quite simple. People can be in contact with anyone living in any area of world. Smaller groups and movements have been boosting due to their links with some other equal groups. Sometimes similar and equal conditions lead to movement, revolt against respective government. Historical, cultural inequality faced by the particular section of society gave rise to disturbance for present stability. In such a diverse situation, federalism becomes the mechanism to reduce these types of fear as well as provides the polity of co-existence. Federalism has been considered as the most suitable form of government especially in a diverse society.

The word Federalism has been derived from the Latin word 'Feodus' which means treaty or an agreement (Dictionary.com). It means federalism is a form of government which framed through a treaty or agreement among states. States can be termed as units, provinces and cantons depend on particular nation's terminology. "Federalism is meant to be formation of a union and a voluntary association of different territorial unions of people within the scope of a state, or between several states and political units for different purpose" (Batavejic: 2012, p.22). Federalism form of government is most suited to countries full of ethnic and cultural diversity includes India, Canada, Pakistan and United States.

There are two methods through which federal form of government can be established in a country. States are the key players in federalism. The first method is 'coming together federalism' and other one is 'holding together federalism'(Bulmer: 2017). In the formation of coming together federalism small states come together and make an agreement with each other. Earlier when small states faced the fear of external interference then those units came together with each other and made an agreement of formation of union which enable them to handover some of the security related issues, foreign policy issue to union and remained independent in their domestic field. In coming together federalism, units become powerful due to their significant role in the formation of union. Union has limited powers in this federation, focuses only on functions handover by units to union. One of the celebrated examples of this type of federalism is 'Unites states of America' as the name United States declares its federal nature of coming together federalism. On 4 July, 1776, 13 North American colonies became

independent then they felt the need of cooperation in the matters regarding war, security and foreign policy. After that "they adopted Articles of Confederation, a constitution which created a league of sovereign states which committed the states to cooperate with each other in military affairs, foreign policy and the other important areas. The Article were barely sufficient to hold the states together through the war against England and, at the successful conclusion of that war, fall apart completely as the states pursued their own interests rather than the national interests of new United States" (Katz:1997, p.9). In this type of federation, respective citizens become the citizen of state/ unit first and later of the Union/Centre. The concept dual citizenship is found in such federation. The formation of American federalism is considered as the milestone in the history of formation of federalism. "From geographical point of view, federalism belongs rather to the "new world" i.e., America, than to the "old lady", thus Europe" (Batavejic 2012, p.22). In the American continents maximum countries are federal state rather than in European continents where only exception are federal state.

Holding together federalism is another form of establishing federalism. In the holding together federalism states derive their powers from Centre or there is constitutional distribution of power among Centre and state (Bulmer: 2017). Generally, in such type of federations Centre remains powerful or dominant because all the national important issues such as security, defence, foreign policy lie with Centre. Indian federalism is one of the examples of holding together federalism. The Government of India Act of 1935 became the base for Indian federalism. There were several debates and discussions took place in the constituent assembly while framing Indian federalism. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, while introducing the draft of federalism said that Indian constitution would establish dual polity in which Union and state, both would be sovereign. He said that the Indian constitution will be "both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances" (Constituent Assembly Debate, Vol. VII, p.34). Indian federalism follows the provision of single citizenship. A person will be Indian only; he/she will not hold the citizenship of any state. This is to make strong sense of nationality among Indians. B.R. Ambedkar adopted union focused federalism because he was aware of the fact that India is a country with diversification. People belonging to different caste, race, and language live here in the country. So, to ensure co-existence and peace further in the country he adopted union dominated federalism. In the Indian federation states do not have the right to get

separate from union which avoids the future danger of separation movements. Indian federalism is known as quasi- federal because it has applied the changed nature of federalism in India.

Although Federalism developed in American continent but its roots are found in Europe only. American continent provided development land to federalism. In the Ancient Greek there were small states and those states formed confederations on religious bases. In the ancient period, federalism flourished but in the Middle Ages, it falls down, although confederations were there and in later of 18th century, we saw the rise of federalism from America (Bataveljic: 2012).

Federalism has its practices as well as a theoretical perspective. There are various theories propounded in context of federalism. The practice of federalism is difference from that of theory. Surprisingly the practice of federalism differs from place to place, country to country. It is a concept of political organization which has been adopted by the states in respect of their socio-political conditions. "Federalism can seem a banal idea- not more than a tool kit of machinery of government of managing regionally complex centrifugal and centripetal forces in political system" (Amadi, Echem and Nwoko:2017, p.42).

A theory is a set of principles supported to a certain idea. There are theories in respect of federalism. S.A. Palekar in his article 'Federalism: A Conceptual Analysis' (The Indian Journal of Political Science: 2006) described three theories of federalism i.e., classical theory, origin theory and functional theory. Amadi, Echem and Nwoko (The Theory and Practice of Federalism: A Critical Analysis of History and Global Trend: 2017) described classical theory as legal instructional view of federalism. Classical theory explains the meaning of federalism. The crux of classical theory is the independence of both governments from each other in the dual polity (Palekar: 2006). A.V. Dicey (Introduction to the study of Law of Constitution: 1915), K.C. Wheare (Federal Government: 1963), Bryce (The American Commonwealth: 1888) and Jethruo Brown (The Underlying Principles of Modern Legislation: 1912) are the exponents of this theory. As quoted by Grodzins, Bryce described federalism as "the system was like a great factory where in two sets of machinery are at work, their revolving wheels apparently intermixed, their bands crossing one another, yet each set doing its own work without touching or hampering the other" (Grodzins:1967, p. 261). A written and rigid constitution, independent judiciary and allocation of resources at levels of government are some

conditions of federalism described by exponents of classical theory. Origin theory of federalism describes the favorable elements for the establishment of federalism. Origin theory has three sub-categories: First of all is 'Sociological Theory' supported by William S. Livingston (Federalism and Constitutional Change: 1956). He believed that federal political system established due to federal nature of society. Federal society is a society in which diversity found with the element of group. It means diversity must be territorially grouped (Palekar:2006). Livingston believes that "federalism is simply a political arrangement through which the federal attributes of a society are expressed" (Amadi, Echem and Nwoko: 2017, p.43).Second is the 'Multi Factors theory', supported by K.C. wheare(Federal Government: 1963) and Karl Deutsch(The Nerves of Government: 1963), which explains the necessary conditions for the formation of modern federalism, and last is 'Political Theory' of federalism which believes the federalism is the solution to political problems. William H. Riker (Federalism: Origin, Operation and Significance: 1964) is the supporter of political theory of federalism. Functional Theory of federalism, supported by R.L. Watts (New Federations: Experiment in the Commonwealth: 1966), describes about the function and working of federal system to face new challenges of modern era (Palekar:2006).

Montesquieu became the first thinker who introduced the meaning and idea of federalism in his celebrated work 'The Spirit of Laws (1748)'. "He develops the idea of 'federative republics' as unions of republics through a contract that would allow them to be large and strong enough to resist to monarchies" (Lepine:2012, p. 58). Montesquieu was the first thinker who used terms like 'federation republic' and confederation in a scientific way. Althusius put forward the sequence of federalism in his book 'Politica Methodice Digesta' 1603. He presented a new dimension in the structure of society. He started from the bottom-up tier to higher levels, from family to national level and called it 'consociation' which will work on the bases of self-governance, people will live with peace. Althusius was followed by Kant. Immanuel Kant is one of the celebrated authors in the area of peace. He introduced the idea of 'federation of free states' in his book 'Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch'1795. He believed that wars can be avoided by accepting the constitutional law, equality and freedom among people (Lepine: 2012).

Statement of the Problem

Federalism is a form of political system through which constitutional powers of the nation got divided between national government and state or regional government. Centre and state are the two wheels to run a federal political system so cooperation and coordination among both is considered necessary. India is a federal country. The Government of India Act 1935 lay down the foundation of federalism in India. India is a 'Union of State' not the 'Federation of State' which depicts the territorial integrity and unbreakable bond and nature of Indian federalism. India adopts the concept of single citizenship, on the place of dual citizenship, so that the territorial integrity of India, unity and equality among people can be maintained. In the Indian federalism, three lists are given in the constitution, which divides the powers between Centre and state government i.e. Union list, State list and Concurrent list. In the union list, matters of national importance are given such as defence, on which the union has right to make laws. Similarly, the matters of state list come under the direct control of state authority. On the matters of concurrent list, both Centre and state share authority. As we know that Indian federalism has the tendency of strong union so allegations are posed by the states that all the important matters fall under union list, state list has less importance matters.

States are demanding for greater autonomy since long time. There are several points of issues between Centre and state governments. Article 356 of the constitution grants application of Centre authority in the respective state on the failure of constitutional machinery of that state. States demand that through this provision center misuses its powers. The office of governor in the state faces several criticisms by the state. The distribution of financial resources among states is also one of the issues of tension. States claims that center government make discrimination in the distribution of resources. States ruling by same political party as of center get more resources in comparison to the non-ruling party state. States demand to revise the financial setup of center states. There are some taxes which are imposed by state but collected by Centre, also provide huge revenue. So states demand for the collection of such taxes. States claim that sometimes center government becomes dominant while formulating the decisions and policies for the country. The economic liberalization has affected the centre-state relations at the larger level that leading to the setback to the federal principles in India. Foreign policy, national securities are some new zones of conflicts between Centre and states. This study will examine

all the tensions between centre and state and their relations during the regimes of the UPA and the NDA.

Review of literature

1) Jain (1973) - Author described the framing of three major federalism of the world i.e., US, Canada and Australia. From all three constitutional we felt the need of strong Centre. Indian constitutional makers framed the Indian federalism on three pillars that are: a strong Centre, flexible federation and co- operative federalism. The reorganization of Indian states from independence has been described by writer. The distribution of powers in a federal state is a most sensitive area. The idea of concurrent list is borrowed from the federalism of Australia. Centre state financial relationship was a crucial issue among the founding father of constitution and they tried to solve it through tax-sharing. In the federal country like India governor holds a key position and the office of governor passes through many debates and discussions. Lack of channelization is the weakening trend of Indian federalism. Intergovernmental coperations are needed to solve the problems of Indian federalism and to make it more effective.

2) Singh (2008) - Author discussed about the formation of federalism in India prior independence. In the year of 1947, states got reorganization. The entire nation's power came under the name of government of India. Soon after Independence scenario got changed with the emergence of linguistic movements in the states. The demand of formation of states on language base emerged. The government of India had to accept such demand hence many new states formed on the bases of language. New sub- state movements became another hurdle in Indian federalism. It was the issue of ethnic identity. India follows the concept of shared rule and self-rule. Still the issues of states have not resolved completely while there has been formation of various commission to resolve these issues. Various internal and external problems of federal India have been discussed by the author.

3) Varshney (2013) - The development of Indian federalism has been discussed here. Author explained Indian federalism in two areas, one is the distribution of power between Centre and state and the other one is the fiscal distribution between Centre and state. The article has six sub parts in which first deals with the conceptual clarity, second deal with the constitutional provision of federalism, third has the description of fiscal dimensions, fourth deals with success and failure of

federalism, fifth deal with cross border terrorism as a problem of federalism and last is the concluding remark. Language played very significant role in the formation of states in India. It was territorially centered. The concept of state nation has been described here. India is a country of culturally diversified. It came in front as cooperative federalism. The development of coalition government in the phase of 1990s made national security more complex. Constitutional amendments are needed to resolve the problem like cross border terrorism and center state relations.

4) Kumar (2014): Kumar in the article "Federalism in India: A Critical Appraisal" described about Indian federalism and the process and development of India's federal structure. Author has divided the development process of Indian federalism into three phases: First from independence to mid-1960s, second from fourth general elections 1967 and third from the end of 1980s. Indian federalism fulfills all the prerequisite of being a federal state from written and rigid constitution to bi-commercial legislature. Three types of allocation of power have been described by writer i.e., vertical power sharing, horizontal power sharing and transversal power sharing. The ratio of unequal power sharing called Asymmetries in Indian federalism. Indian federalism is being claimed to be asymmetric federalism due to distribution of power between Centre & state as well as the different relation of different state to the Centre. The effect of globalization can be seen both as positive and negative on Indian federalism. On the one hand globalization provided vast opportunities, on the other hand, the autonomy of a liberal state being compromised due to globalization. Writer has also described strength and weakness of Indian federalism.

5) Sharma (2015)– Author analyzed the needs of Indian federalism from cooperative to collaborative federalism. The role played by the states must be constructive rather than cooperative. Author gave suggestions to improve the role of interstate councils and to constitutionalize the body NITI Aayog for the constructive working of Indian federalism. Qualitative research methodology has been used by the author. In his article, author described about four models of federalism i.e., executive federalism, cooperative model of federalism, competitive model and the last is collaborative mode of federalism. According to each model, results have been tested by the author. The structure of governance of 20^{th}, 21^{st} century has its description. There is need of negotiations in the constructive working of Indian

federal system. Economies among various models are described here. There is need of reformative institutional framework for the effective working of Indian federalism.

6) Sahoo (2015) - Centre state relations are one of the complex issues. In 2014, when Narendra Modi came in power, he was aware about this complex issue because earlier he was the chief minister of Gujarat for a long time. So, he walked on the path of cooperative federalism. Author believed that despite forming the commission on center state relations, the UPA government faced multiple hurdles in its way of implementation. Now, regional parties were not limited to regions, they were playing vital role in national politics since era of coalition. Economic liberalization affected center state relations directly. Judiciary's role has been increasing in the handling of Centre state relations. There are lots of issues between center and state in which distribution of tax is the mother of all issues. NDA's acceptance of recommendations of fourteenth finance commission was a positive effort towards cooperative federalism. Author also provided strategy for strengthening the ties of Centre and state relations.

7) Chakraborty and Gupta (2016) - Centre- state relations in concern of fiscal federalism have been discussed by the author. The recommendations of fourteenth finance commission and the budget of the year 2016-17 made notable changes in the financial relations of centre and states. There were three major changes denoted. First of all the recommendations given by finance commission had been accepted and tariffs got increased. Niti Aayog formed sub group of including all the chief ministers of states with regard to financial matters. There has been incensement in aggregate transfer to states in the year of 2016-17.

8) Basu (2016) -Foreign policy is a key arena to make an understanding of particular states external behavior. State makes policies for his external behavior. Author in this article made a chain/connection between Indian foreign policy and federalism of India. Federalism is a system in which powers are divided between center and state; both are independent in their respective fields. The role of states/ units is the key here. In the UPA tenure, there are several denoting events shows UPA's non-inclusion of states in foreign policy making. It is not a sudden thing. In Indira Gandhi's tenure this tendency of exclusion of states from foreign policy was at its peak. The NDA in his tenure tried to include respective state in the particular matter, later the NDA too faced criticism. So, the discord among

centre state relations in India is always a matter of anxiety. India's economic liberalization and political decentralization have been discussed by the author.

9) Kumar (2017) - Author in his article discussed about three-layer distribution of Indian federalism i.e. National level, state level and regional bodies. National level and state level are autonomous in their respective areas. While local bodies are under control. They have limited autonomy. In fact, these bodies got constitutional status in 1992. They have absence of power and autonomy while they have responsibility of respective area. Delhi is an exception to it. Delhi also suffers from several problems. Author discussed about India's constitutional flexibility to make changes. India, being a largest democracy in the world with a federal form of government, could be more strengthen than it is. There is always a need of rethinking in Indian federalism along with center state ties.

10) Sharma &Swenden (2017) - Author analysis Indian federalism on the basis of three research questions: First, the role of Indian federalism in stabilizing the multi-ethnic democracy in India and second is the maintenance of balance between center- state relations on the bases of grants and stipends and third is the impact of democratic expansion on the internal working of Indian federalism. Sharma & Swenden use numerous case studies to support their argument. Both use longitudinal and comparative theoretical approach in their study. In the year 2014, BJP Party got majority in the center and formed the government. Before the era of starting of coalition government in the center, congress lost support due to its inability to attract newly rising lower caste. BJP worked for co-operative federalism and established NITI Aayog. The distribution of grants always affected by the parties congress ruling states were getting favour in case of grants in comparison to Non-congress ruling state. The formation of new states on the bases of ethnicity is one of the major parts of Indian federalism.

11) Kumar (2018) - In this article, Author talks about the nature of Indian federalism. Indian federalism tries to maintain balance between the centralized tendencies on the one hand and the separate working of the units on the other hand. Interstate governmental relations over several issues are important part of federal system. Indian federalism has to make a balance between working of several units along with diversity of India. The historical development of Indian federalism has been discussed in the article. The role played by our political leaders is very significant to understand the actual context of Indian federalism. India being a federal state, is not the result of contract between

units, rather is a mechanism the binds several units, their separate autonomous political system into one entity. Various acts and plans of making of Indian constitution have been discussed here. The government of India Act of 1935 is a major source of Indian constitution. Author explained various problems of Indian federalism and wrote that Indian federalism has the tendencies of unitary system that needs to review and revise.

12) Sharma and Swenden (2018) - In the general elections of 2014, Bhartiya Janata Party achieved full-fledged victory. It was, after the era of coalition government, the first party to get majority in the elections of Lok Sabha. BJP in its manifesto declared that center state relations would be the keen priority of Narendra Modi government. Centre state relations in the three dimensions have been discussed here. First dimension is political, second is fiscal and third is Administrative. In the era of coalition, the role of Supreme Court increased while the use of president rule decreased. Narendra Modi prioritizes competitive- cooperative federalism to make states stronger and independent. In the political dimension, after gaining power in the center, BJP first of all replaced the governors appointed by UPA government. Despite cooperative federalism, unilateral decisions were taken up for e.g., the decision of demonetization. The fiscal dimension of centre state relations tuned as "Trust Based" paradigm of Centre state relations.

13) Sidharan (2018) - Coalition era is an important landmark in the history of Indian federalism. The history of Indian political system i.e., federalism with parliamentary form of government has been discussed by the author. India is a country with diversification in which region based political parties have been in a major position. In the federal system, coalition congruence is quite difficult to maintain. Congress dominated to Indian political system over many decades since the independence. There are other major parties such as Bhartiya Janata Party, Communist Party of India etc. In fact, it has become highly tough to handle congruence in a federal polity like India.

14) Malik (2019): Author in his writing talks about Indian federalism with the necessary features. Federalism is a system in which power of nation got divided between Centre and state with respected autonomy. Before 1935, India was not a federal system. India was a Unitarian state. From the act of 1935, phases of decentralization started in India. Supreme Court, as the final interpreter of the constitution gave its verdicts on the concerns of federalism in India. Author said that judiciary's stand

on federalism is not certain always but inconsistent. The Indian constitution has all the necessary features of federalism but still it remains on the pin of the critics because it certainly has some features that lead to unitary system of government such as parliamentary supremacy, strong center etc. Indian federalism faces many challenges for e.g., language conflict, regionalism, conflict between center and state etc. Indian federalism is an effective political system which works altogether for the welfare of its people. Centre has strong tendencies but still states are not less autonomous in their own sphere.

15) Aiyar and Kapur (2019) - Fiscal federalism is a very vital dimension of any state's federalism. In India also it plays a very significant role. Author discussed the relation of fiscal federalism with social policy. Centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) are the major policies started by central government. In 2014, NDA led Narendra Modi Government accepted the recommendations of 14th finance commission and shows path forward to fiscal decentralization. States are also important players in CSS. States autonomy to finance with the implementation of CSS is very effective. Sometimes, CSS's failure depends on state's dependence for finance. The role of all India services (IAS) as bureaucrats are significant in the application of centrally sponsored schemes.

16) Ghosh (2020)- The term 'federalism' denotes the constitutionally distribution of power between the center, also called union and the states, called units or provinces. Author explained the nature of Indian federalism and writes that Indian federalism has the tendencies of powerful center. He classified Indian federalism into four phases which are: First phase (1947-1964), Second phase (1968-1989) and third phase (1990-2014), fourth phase (2014 onwards). Author said that first phase started from independence, and congress party was at its peak in this time. The Congress ruled center along with almost all the states. It was the period when demand for linguistic states raised and accepted by centre government English was also added as a national language. In the Second phase congress faced many challenges. Due to elimination of strong regional leaders from congress, regional demands and parties emerged. In the third phase, congress became weak at national level. It was also the era of starting of coalition government in India. And the fourth phase is the remarkable era when promoted cooperative federalism as the creation of NITI Aayog and the formation of GST council. India is large and diversified country so it needs to maintain balance between pillars of federalism.

17) Aiyar (2020) - Author wrote about states' importance in the national politics. Prime Minister Modi is doing hard to establish Centre's domination on states but states are emerging strongly. Goods and services Tax (GST) is among the prime example of establishing central hegemony. The decision of GST is considered as unilateral decision taken by center. At a time, Modi was among those who criticized Centre for domination, but now he is first among those who are establishing the domination. It is an irony in itself. Center didn't fulfill recommendation of fourteenth finance commission. The idea 'One nation' is a craft for establishing political domination. Regional parties are still an important player in center and state politics.

18) Kumar (2020)–Author analyzed that the center state relations are highly affected by the programmes launched by union government. The Centre-state relations in light of centrally sponsored schemes are discussed by the writer. Union initiates a programme or policy and it is the responsibility of the states to make the implementation of it. In this process, states require funds which are to be provided by center. The NAREGA, RTEA are some leading names of these types of policies. Despite of constitutional division, union has domination over states and controls finance effectively rather than states. There always remain clashes between union and state for the distribution of finance.

19) Aiyar and Tillen (2020)–Authors narrated that Modi government came into existence in 2014. After coming into power various political projects came in highlight such as bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, national citizenship law and so on. The intensity of passing resolutions in quick way highlighted the centralized tendencies of Bhartiya Janata Party. With the changing system, changes in party politics came. This again has highlighted the establishment of one-party dominance in the centre which depicts the upcoming future of Indian federalism.

Objectives

1 To understand the concept of Federalism

2 To study the nature of Indian federalism

3 To identify the problems of India federalism

4 To compare the working of federal practices during the governments of the UPA and the NDA

5 To explore and suggest the suitable remedies for the strengthening of Indian federal system

Research Questions

1. What are the structural reforms carried out by UPA and NDA regimes?

2. How the practices of UPA and NDA are affecting the Indian Federal System?

3. How the practices of the distribution of resources between centre and state affected the nature of Indian Federalism?

Research Methodology

Research Design: Descriptive Research Design with Comparative Analysis

Data Collection

Sources of Data Collection: The proposed study will be based on both, primary and secondary sources of data collection.

1. Primary data includes governmental reports, recommendations of various commissions along with their documents and memorandums etc. This study will make Observation of the contemporary and past events. Expert's opinions will be collected.

2. Secondary data will be collected from books, journals and authentic Internet websites.

Significance of the study

In a federal system center and state are the key players of political system. The progressive, improved and healthy relations between these two units lead to growth of a nation. This comparative study of federal system between two regimes UPA (2004-2014) and NDA (2014 onwards) will make us understand about effectiveness of ruling and working of center and state in defined period. This study will provide various dimensions for future research. India is formally known as Quasi-federal state. This study will make an analysis of nature of Indian federal system. This study will be helpful in identifying the problems of Indian federalism. Suggestions will be provided to resolve the clashes between Centre and state. Idea of cooperative federalism introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be analyzed. This study will describe the importance of Centre state relations in the progress of a nation.

Proposed chapters

1. Introduction

2. Theorization of Federalism

3. Nature of Indian Federalism

4. Problems and Challenges of Indian Federalism

5. Analysis of the Practice of Indian Federalism during UPA and NDA periods

6. Conclusion: Findings and Suggestions

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